



The Halford Family of Wistow Hall

hope for one another, but it is considered a very fair average to make 18 cwt of sugar for every Negro, but the Properties in question being good ones, should almost all of them if the Gangs are at all effective, do considerably more, as it is seen by the return herewith.

Rate of Negro Hire - some do - - - The Rate of Negro Hire when Insured is usually 12 ff if uninsured 15 ff on the value of the slaves hired; but nobody would hire slaves for 12 ff, when they could purchase -

Rate of Negro Hire

.....'It is considered a very fair average to make 18cwt of sugar for every Negro..... the rate of Negro hire when insured is usually 12 ff [French Francs] if uninsured 15 ff on the value of the slaves hired but nobody would hire slaves and pay 12ff, when they could purchase.'

Present Value of the Properties in 1818

..... 'in 4 or 5 years they might produce exclusive of interest upwards of £200,000 I mean the 7 first estates, and the Grand Bas maybe worth £50,000 more.'

Present value of the Properties - It is difficult to say what is the present value but I should suppose if sold in the usual way they'd be constant and the remaining 4 or 5 instalments in 4 or 5 years they might produce exclusive of interest / interest of £200,000 I mean the 7 first estates, and the Grand Bas maybe worth £50,000 more.

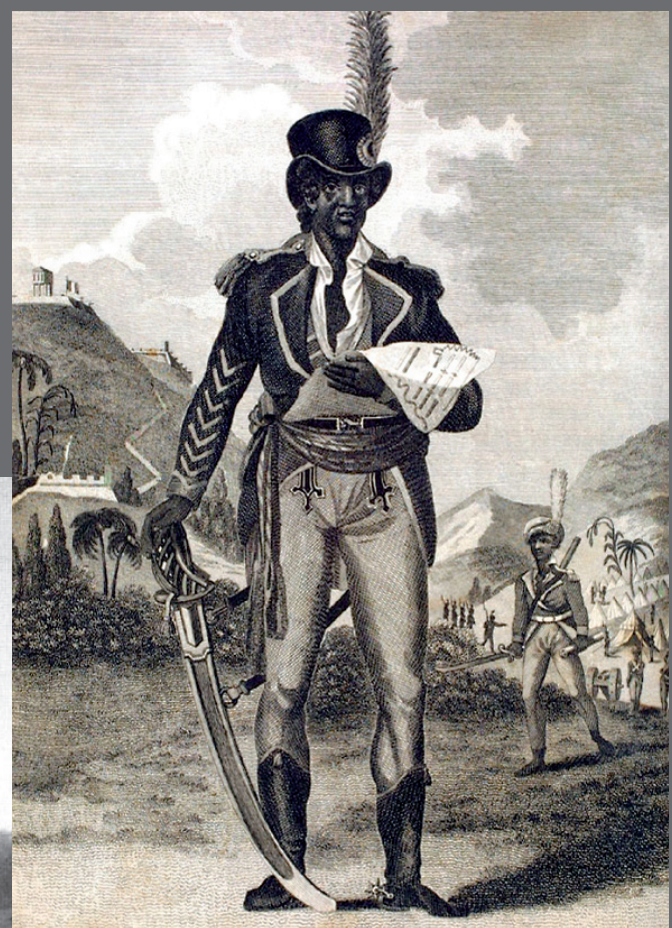
Whipping of a Fugitive Slave, French West Indies, 1840s

This was known as the punishment of the four stakes/pegs in which a victim would lay on his stomach, his hands and legs were tied to stakes while he was being whipped on his back by the black overseer.



Vendier 1849

The Halford family inherited several sugar plantations in Grenada, when Sir Henry married Elizabeth Barbara, the daughter of John, 10th Baron St John and Susanna Louisa Simond. Elizabeth had inherited the plantations from her paternal grandfather Peter Simond, a merchant of French descent. He had acquired the plantations with his partner John Hankey through loans made to French plantation proprietors in the 18th century. The plantations were worthwhile investments but their values could fluctuate in response to unrest.



Resistance and uprisings aboard slave ships and on plantations were a constant fear of the slave owners. From the 1650s the escaped slaves known as Maroons came to control much of the Jamaican interior, while the movement led by Toussaint L'Ouverture in Haiti established an independent black state in 1804.

Marcus Rainsford, An Historical Account of the Black Empire of Hayti, 1805

Executed Slaves, Demerara (British Guiana), 1823
Depicts the punishment of slaves convicted of participating in the major 1823 revolt in the colony of Demerara. The decapitation of slaves convicted of major crimes was not unusual in the British West Indies.

Taken from copy in British Library

Note of a supposed partial recovery after the present troubles in Grenada -

The whole of the Estate x 1811 was estimated at £132,000

As per the land to amount with £80,000

13 ff the Negroes & other - 30,000

12 ff the debt to be repaid - 10,000

£122,000

Exclusion of any compensation which may most probably be expected for a loss of £100,000

The whole of the Claims according to the Statement is £100,000

£100,000

The sum to be added for the loss of the same is £20,000

£120,000

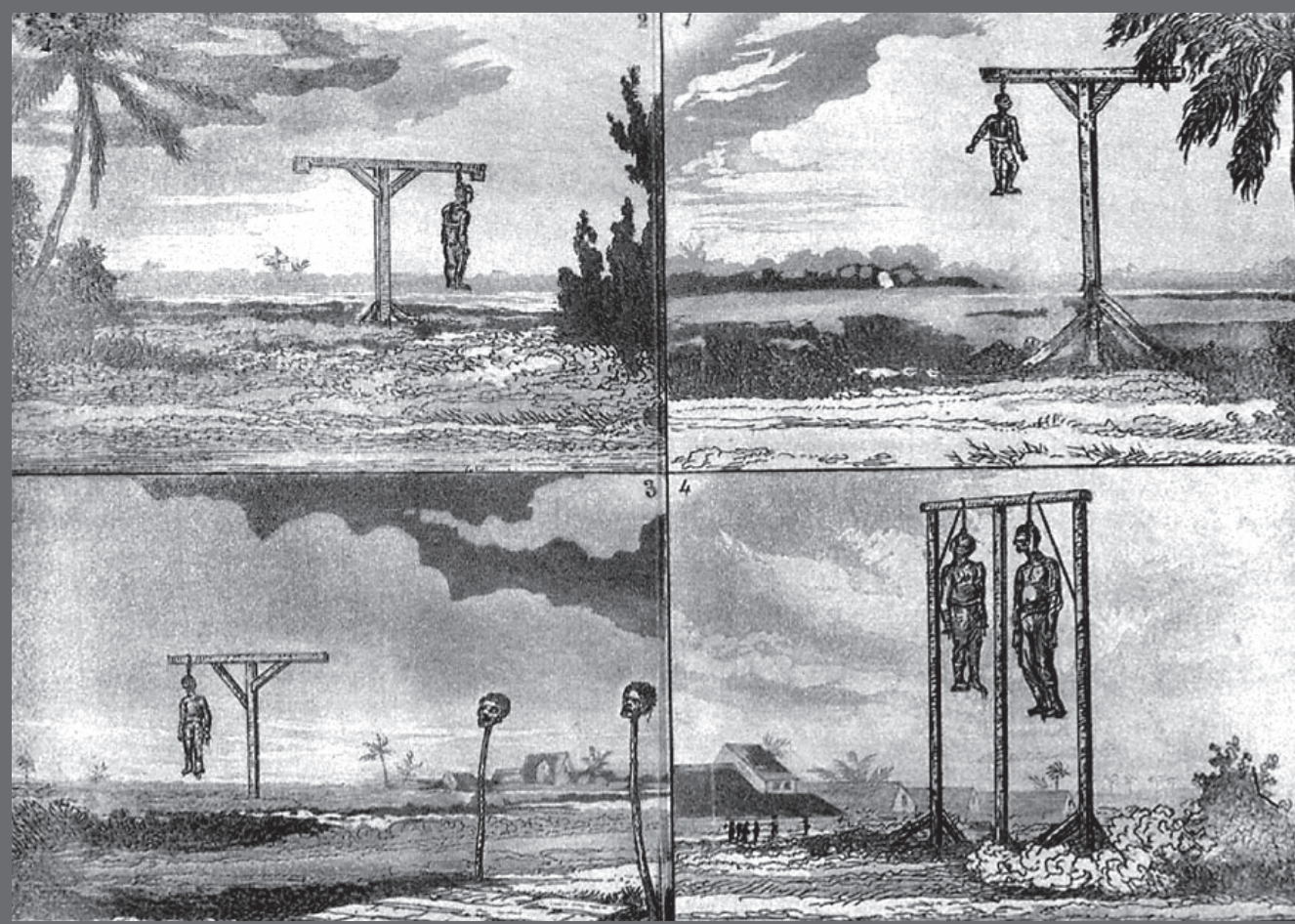
The rest of the same Estate for the £100,000. Cents are added and paid to the remainder of the sum of £20,000 - it is believed that the present value is added to the sum of £100,000 - £120,000. The same will change with the loss of 12 months will make the office fully equal to the engagement now entered in to the present time.

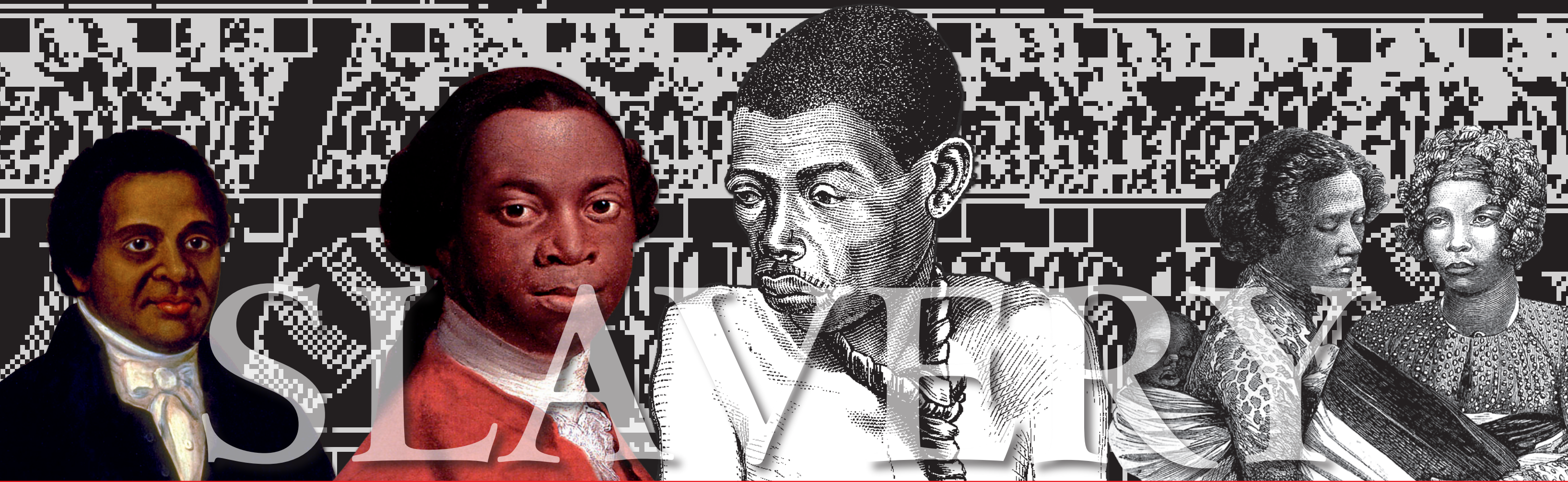
A reference to possible unrest is made in this document from the 19th century, which talks of a 'supposed partial recovery' after the 'present troubles' in Grenada.

Table of the present value of the Properties in 1818

| Property | 1811 | 1812 | 1813 | 1814 | 1815 | 1816 | 1817 | 1818 | 1819 | 1820 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Armadillo | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Tombe | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Simon | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 |
| Barbier | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 |
| Barbier | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 |
| Barbier | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Barbier | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Barbier | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 |
| Barbier | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 |
| Barbier | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| Barbier | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Barbier | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| Barbier | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Barbier | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Barbier | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Barbier | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

This document appears to be a report on the properties of the late Messrs Simond and Hankey in Grenada. It names the eight plantations, gives details of their sugar production and slave population in the period 1815-1820. Figures are given in hogsheads of sugar. A hogshead is an imperial unit of measurement equal to approximately 250 litres or 63 gallons. It is also the name given to a cask of that size.





The Shirley Family of Staunton Harold

The Shirley family (Earls Ferrers) had a sugar plantation in Jamaica. Letters from a George Cook, in the 1790s reveal that Henry Shirley had made Hyde Hall, Jamaica his home and was reaping the rewards from his investment in the plantation and the employment of slaves.



A map of the West Indies containing the coasts of Florida, Louisiana, New Spain and Terra Firma with all the Islands showing the position of Grenada and Jamaica, by Samuel Dunn, mathematician, 1774.

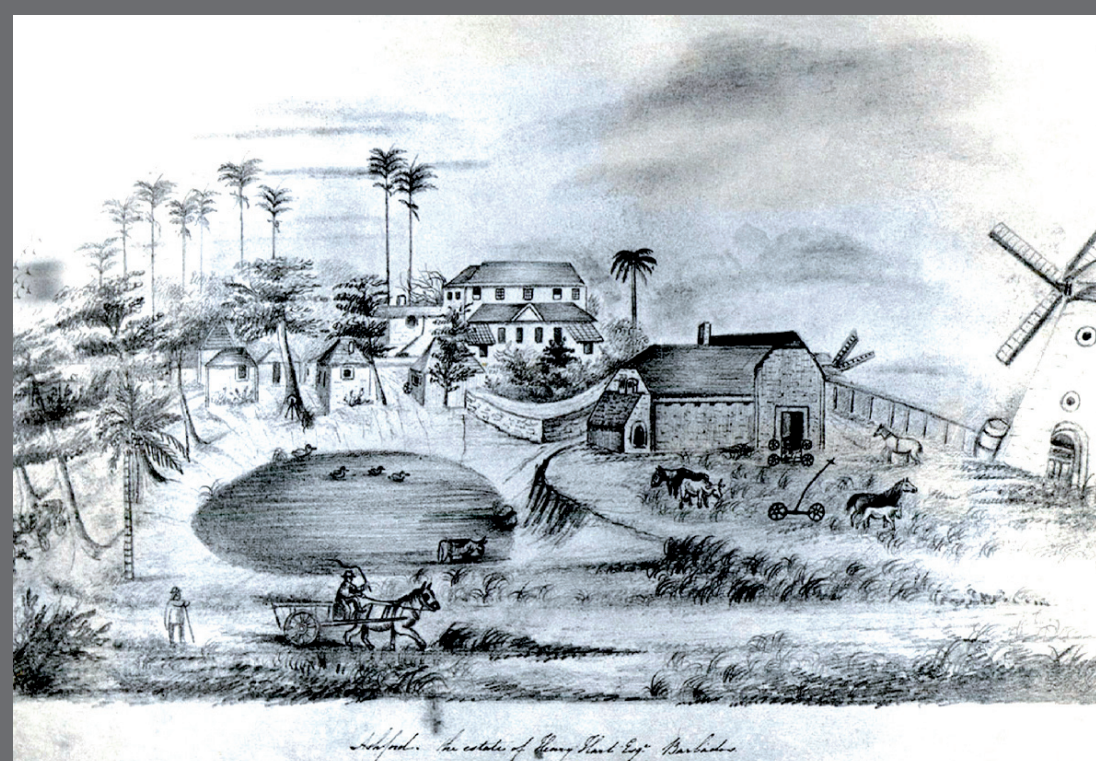
I hope soon to hear that Jamaica agrees with Mr Edward as well as it has done with you; he is a Man of Business as well as yourself, so I suppose you will soon make a Planter of him; such a Compa-

Letter from George Cook to Henry Shirley Dated 2 May 1792
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However, in these same letters George Cook foresaw that dark clouds were looming for plantation owners if the growing anti-slavery movement and William Wilberforce's attempts to push through legislation for its abolition were successful. His hopes rested on the House of Lords rejecting this.

four shillings and four pence a year. The Slave Trade Business is still working upon Men's minds here as long as nothing decidedly is done to the disadvantage of our Islands; the mere speculation of it, may do no-

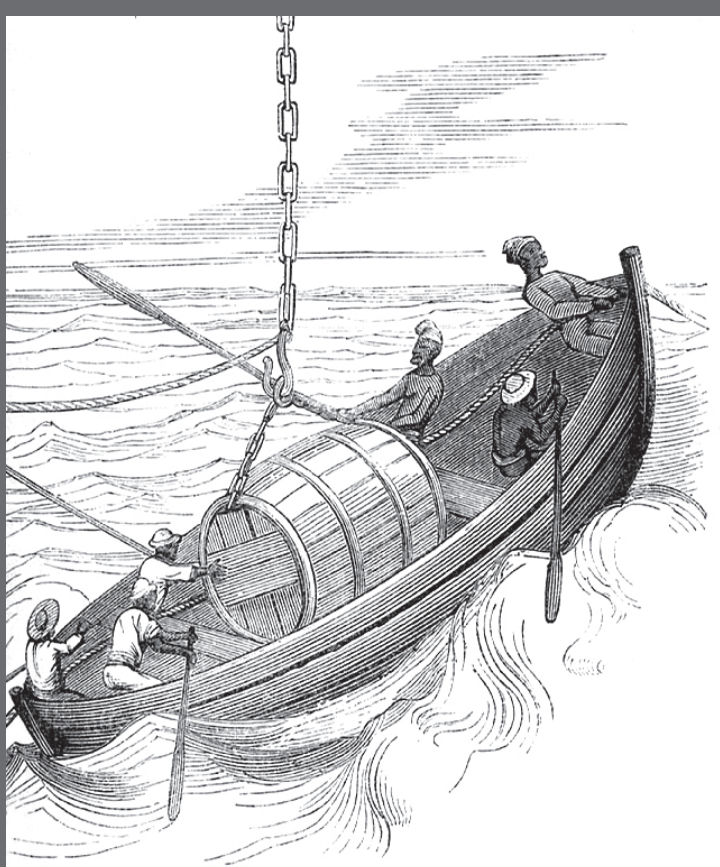
Letter Dated 7 March 1792
The Slave trade Business is still working upon Men's minds here, as long as nothing decidedly is done to the disadvantages of our Islands.....'



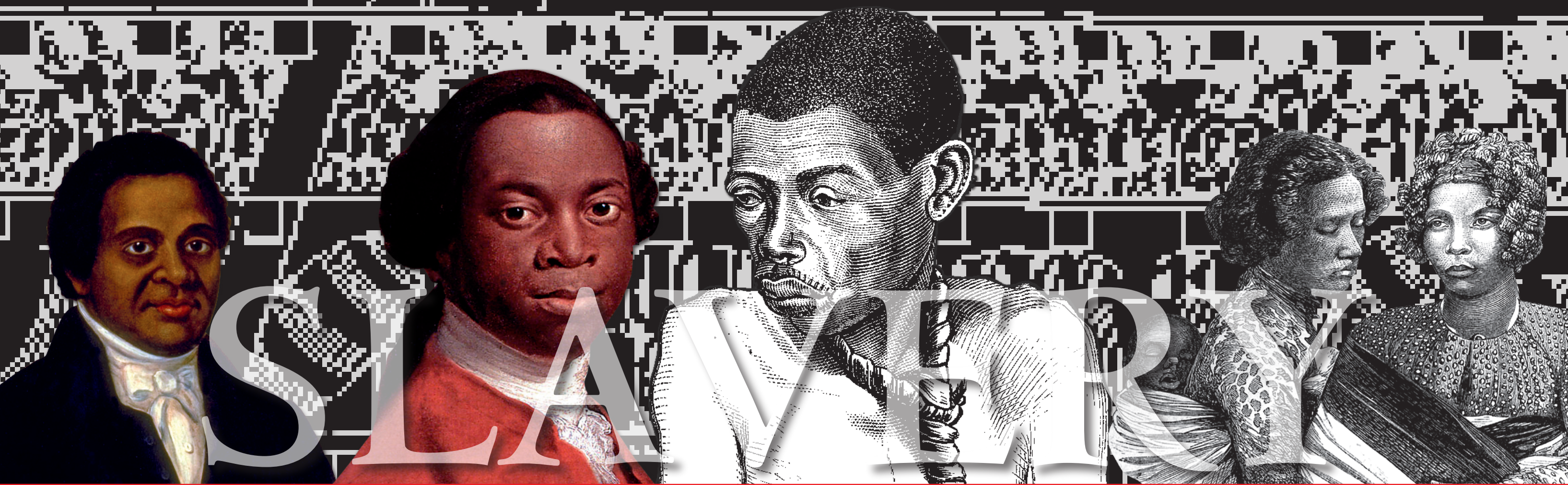
Ashford Plantation Barbados 1830s-1840s
 This unique drawing was made by a teenage girl between 1837 and 1845 several years after slave emancipation. However, it shows features typical of a Barbadian sugar plantation yard area in the early period.

The Commons seem to be carrying a gradual abolition hollow, to commence in Jan'y 1796. Yet it may be very much a doubt whether such a Bill will pass the Lords. Your Friend Fox is a strong Advocate against you. The inhumanity of the Trade none can deny; the Policy of it in my mind is quite another Question; and, I think it might very well be continued to the end of the present Century.

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Transporting Sugar Hogsheads by Boat, St Vincent, West Indies, 1847
 This picture shows a small boat with a six-man crew, loading a large hogshead of sugar.
 Copy in Library Company of Philadelphia



The Royall House, Medford, Massachusetts
Isaac Royall's fine Georgian mansion was extended and renovated by his father in the 1730s. Together with its slave quarters, it is now a museum and educational centre. It opened in 1906 and has been designated a U.S. National Historic Landmark.

The Palmer Family of Wanlip Hall

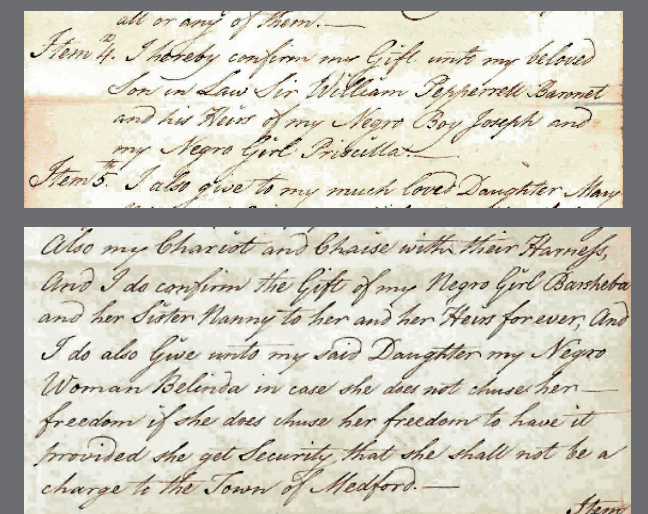


Wanlip Hall, 1790
Built around 1750, this was the home of the Palmer family until 1933. The Hall was demolished in 1938.



The Palmers were great friends of the anti-slavery campaigners, the Babingtons of Rothley. It is thought that the former African slave, Rasselas Morjan, who worked at Wanlip Hall in the 1830s, had been 'rescued' by the Babingtons. It is ironic that the Palmers had owned slaves on sugar plantations in Surinam and Jamaica.

They acquired these lucrative businesses through Thomas Palmer (1743-1820), a member of the American branch of the family. The plantations had passed to him from the Palmers' wealthy relatives, the Royall family of Massachusetts. A rare series of surviving documents reveals the names of slaves and glimpses of their lives working on the plantations. They were the owners' administrative records and therefore present a one-sided view - although it does appear that the Palmer slaves were more fairly treated than slaves on other plantations.



Slaves Left in a Will, 1781
These extracts from the will of Isaac Royall show that slaves could be bequeathed as 'possessions':

'I hereby confirm my Gift unto my beloved Son in Law Sir William Pepperrell Baronet and his Heirs of my Negro Boy Joseph and my Negro Girl Priscilla'. (Sir William's daughter, Harriet, married Sir Charles Thomas Palmer of Wanlip).

'And I do confirm the Gift of my Negro Girl Barshaba and her Sister Nanny to her and her Heirs for ever, and I do also Give unto my said Daughter my Negro Woman Belinda in case she does not chuse her freedom if she does chuse her freedom to have it provided she get Security that she shall not be a charge to the Town of Medford'.

It is interesting that Belinda, the Royalls' slave for over 50 years, was allowed to go free if she wished. In fact, in 1783, she petitioned the Massachusetts legislature and was awarded a pension from Isaac Royall's estate. This is regarded as one of the first cases of reparation for slavery and the slave trade. Belinda's petition is set out in her lawyer's emotive language. At the age of 11, she was 'ravished from the bosom of her Country' in Africa and 'cruelly separated' from her parents for ever. During the voyage, there were 'three hundred Africans in chains, suffering the most excruciating torments... her doom was Slavery, from which death alone was to emancipate her'.



The Slave Quarters at the Royall House
This is the only surviving example of slave quarters in the northern United States.

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1838 | Feb 11 | Rasselas | believed of Abyssinia | Morgan Wanlip Hall | Servant | Ch. Palmer |
| Oct of 1838 | No. 52 | deceased | born at Macadi | Confirmed at Rothley August 11 1838 | Confirmed at Rothley August 11 1838 | Confirmed at Rothley August 11 1838 |

Wanlip Baptism Register, 1838
Rasselas was baptised by Rev. Charles Archdale Palmer, the brother of Sir George Joseph Palmer, 3rd Baronet. A letter mentions that Sir George was his godfather and the register also notes his later confirmation at Rothley. These events are alluded to on the gravestone.



'Isaac Royall and His Family' by Robert Feke, 1741
On Isaac's right are his wife, Elizabeth and their daughter, Elizabeth (mother-in-law of Sir Charles Thomas Palmer). His wife's sister, Mary (mother of Thomas Palmer), is wearing the red dress.



Isaac Royall by John Singleton Copley, 1769
Isaac Royall junior (1719-1781) inherited the fortune his father had made from the sugar, rum and slave trades. In 1737, two years before his death, Isaac senior retired from his sugar plantation in Antigua and brought his family and 27 slaves to Medford, Massachusetts. Isaac junior held several public offices and military positions. He and the father of Thomas Palmer had an interest in the Surinam plantation through their marriages to the daughters of Henry McIntosh, whose family had owned the plantation since the late 17th century.
As his wealth was based on strong ties to England, he fled there in 1775 at the outbreak of the American Revolution. Although his estate was confiscated, it was returned to his heirs in 1806. A bequest of land led to the creation of the Isaac Royall professorship and the founding of Harvard Law School.



Gravestone of Rasselas Morjan in Wanlip Churchyard
This Egyptian-style headstone tells us that Rasselas was born in Abyssinia and died in 1839 at the age of only 19. He had been 'rescued from a state of slavery' about 1835. Few details of his short life are known, except from some letters which mention his new uniform, his popularity among the other servants and the sadness at his illness. The circumstances of his 'rescue' and the identity of the 'one whom he loved', who paid for the stone, remain a mystery.

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
RASSELAS MORJAN,
WHO WAS BORN AT MACADI,
ON THE COASTS OF ABYSSINIA,
AND DIED AT WANLIP HALL,
AUGUST 25th 1839,
IN THE 19th YEAR
OF HIS AGE.

RESCUED FROM A STATE OF SLAVERY
IN THE LIFE
AND ENRAGED BY GOD'S GRACE
TO BECOME A MEMBER OF HIS CHURCH,
HE RESTS HERE IN THE HOPE
OF A CRUELER DELIVERANCE HEREFTER.

THIS STONE IS RAISED
IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE BLESS'ED
LIFE BY ONE WHOM HE LOVED.